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29 August 1949

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Letter of inquiry to Admiral Hillenkoetter from
[REDACTED]
re information on illicit trade in arms

1. This inquiry was considered by the ad hoc East-West Trade Committee and the conclusion was that within ORE only slight attention is being given to information on illicit arms traffic or overt or covert arms trade. ORE has prepared only one series of four reports on this subject (Transportation Group, re smuggling of arms to Israel). One individual in B/FE and one in B/EE have been accumulating materials on illicit arms traffic in their respective areas. CIA has no information in convenient report form which could be considered for transmission to [REDACTED] 25X1C8c
2. An examination of Library IBM cards covering materials received by CIA during part of 1948 and 1949 to date disclosed a surprisingly large number of references to materials from CIA and other sources on the subject of arms traffic and trade and related topics. The volume of material is so extensive that it has not been possible to attempt any sort of evaluation. Consequently I am unable to say whether there are materials in suitable form for transmission outside of the agency.
3. The Plans and Policies Staff have agreed to ascertain what the military intelligence agencies may be doing in this field and what use they may be making of related CIA materials.

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4. My conclusion is that it will hardly be possible to reply affirmatively

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to [REDACTED] without -

- a. High-level consultation within CIA regarding what should be done toward analysis, evaluation, and summary of CIA materials, and
 - b. Consultation with other IAC agencies on what information they may have available in convenient form and what type of information could be transmitted to the inquirer.
5. An immediate reply apparently would have to be negative on account of unavailability of material in appropriate form.
6. No investigation has been made of the question of possibly transmitting directly certain classes of incoming material on the assumption that policy would not permit it.
7. In view of points 3 to 6 above, it would seem that this inquiry should be referred to R&P to complete the necessary steps for a definitive reply.

It is my understanding that a preliminary reply has already been made.

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